international agencies like National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of USA may be using internet in the International Space Station (ISS) in Low Earth Orbit.

(c) India is not making any efforts in this direction, at present.

(d) No, Sir. India does not receive data from Space shuttle.

(e) and (f) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is a Research and Development Organisation under Department of Space and there are about 6000 Engineer/Scientists working in various fields of Space Research, Technology and Applications.

MPLADS

1144. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether insisting on the guidelines of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent for SC/ST, respectively huge sums of money under MPLADS are lying without being spent;

(b) whether Government is aware of it; and

(c) whether there would be a rethinking on this issue and revision of the guidelines in such a way that the percentage of funds can be used for the benefit of SC/ST people without insisting on villages exclusively inhabited by SC/ST people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) The provision for Members of Parliament to recommend works for the development of areas inhabited by SC/ST was introduced for the first time in the Guidelines when it was revised in November, 2005. The district authorities are responsible for enforcing these provisions relating to the SC and ST areas. The district authorities also are instructed from time to time by the Ministry to enforce these provisions. The Ministry has not received any information relating to huge sums for SC/ST areas lying unspent with the district authorities.

MPLADS

1145. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to inspect quality of assets created by utilizing Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds;

(b) the actions that are taken in the cases where irregularities are found; and

(c) the reasons for actions not being taken against concerned officials in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is administered through a set of Guidelines which

specifies the authority and responsibility of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments, the District Authorities and the Implementing Authority. The District Authority is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of the works under the scheme at the district level. It is the responsibility of the officers of the Implementing Agencies to regularly visit the work spots to ensure that the works are progressing satisfactorily as per the prescribed procedure, specifications and time schedule. The District Authority is also required to inspect of least 10% of the works under implementation every year. A provision has been made in the revised Guidelines on MPLADS for constitution of a State Level Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary to review MPLADS implementation progress with the district authorities and MPs at least once a year.

(b) and (c) Whenever irregularities are reported, State Governments are directed to investigate the matter and take suitable action.

Public transport

1146. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that problem of traffic jams in the metros is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of the losses of valuable petroleum products due to this, city-wise; and

(c) the firm steps Government is taking to improve the public transport system especially in the four metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As per a study conducted by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) through Central Road Research Institute in 2005 to estimate the fuel loss during idling of vehicles at 600 signalised traffic intersections of Delhi, fuel worth Rs. 272 lakhs per day or Rs. 999.5 crores per annum gets wasted due to idling of vehicles. Such details are, however, not available city-wise.

(c) Urban Transport is a State subject. As such, the responsibility of improving transport system, primarily, rests with the State Government. However, realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Central Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. It, *inter-alia,* seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel, Intelligent Transport Systems etc. It provides guidelines for central financial assistance for investments in public transport, infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as for the construction of parking facilities etc. The thrust of the policy is on moving people rather than moving vehicles.